Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 05152 130216Z

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T MEXICO 5152

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MX, OAS
SUBJ: RABASA ON SAN JOSE MEETING

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

1. SUMMARY: RABASA TOLD LUERS AND ME TODAY THAT HE IS ACTIVELY PURUSING THE "FREEDOM OF ACTION" FORMULA FOR THE SAN JOSE MEETING AND HAS ALREADY INSTRUCTED HIS AMBASSADORS TO RECONVIRM THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTES ON "FREEDOM OF ACTION" AT QUITO AND THE MEXICAN RESOLUTION AT THE OAS. HE IS NOW THREE SURE YESES SHORT OF THE NECESSARY FOURTEEN VOTES. END SUMMARY.

2. WHEN I TOOK BILL LUERS TO CALL ON RABASA TODAY, RABASA OPENED THE CONVERSATION WITH A LAMENT ON THE PRESS REPORTS THAT YOU HAD SAID THE BLOCKADE AGAINST CUBA WOULD NOT BE LIFTED. RABASA SAID THAT HE HAD ASKED THE CUBANS TO REMAIN QUIET ON THE BLOCKADE ISSUE UNTIL AFTER THE SAN JOSE MEETING BUT THAT NOW THEY WILL BE FORCED TO REPLY. HE ALSO QUESTIONED WHETHER THIS REFLECTED A CHANGE IN THE POLICY HE HAD HEARD FROM YOU AND THE SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON ABOUT OUR WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT A "FREEDOM OF ACTION" RESOLUTION.

3. LEURS ASSURED RABASA THAT YOU HAD PERSONALLY ASKED THAT HE BE TOLD OF OUR CONTINUING DESIRE TO SEE SOME "FREEDOM OF ACTION" FORMULA AGREED TO AT SAN JOSE AND THAT A RESOLUTION BE DRAWN UP THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD SUP-
PORT. HE TOLD RABASA THAT YOUR TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CON-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MEXICO 05152 130216Z

GRESSIONAL COMMITTEE RELATED ONLY TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

WITH CUBA AND REFLECTED NO CHANGE IN OUR APPROACH TO THE
OAS SANCTIONS. WE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT WE WOULD NOT
DESIRE THAT THE CONGRESS REMOVE THE BILATERAL ISSUE FROM
THE HANDS OF THE EXECUTIVE. LUERS ASKED RABASA WHAT MEXICO
WAS DOING IN PREPARATION FOR THE SAN JOSE MEETING, INDICATING
THAT WE ASSUME THAT, FOLLOWING A SERIES OF PLENARY SESSIONS
AND THE SIGNING OF PROTOCOL, THERE WOULD BE A MEETING OF THE
ORGAN OF CONSULTATION WHICH WOULD VOTE ON A "FREEDOM OF ACTION"
RESOLUTION.

4. RABASA REPLIED THAT MEXICO CONTINUED TO WORK FOR THE
CONCLUSION OF THE "FREEDOM OF ACTION" RESOLUTIO AT SAN JOSE.
HE WAS VERY PLEASED TO HEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD NOT
CHANGES ITS POSITION AND HE APPRECIATED THAT WHAT THE UNITED
STATES DOES WITH CUBA AFTER SAN JOSE IS ITS OWN BUSINESS.
HE SAID THAT, BY HIS CURRENT COUNT, THE VOTING ON A "FREEDOM
OF ACTION" RESOLUTION AT SAN JOSE WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:

AGAINST - CHILE, PARAGUAY, URUGUAY, NICARAGUA; ABSTEN-
TION - GUATEMALA, BRAZIL; IN FAVOR - MEXICO, HONDURAS,
PANAMA, COSTA RICA, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, VENEZUELA, PERU,
ARGENTINA, TRINIDAD, UNITED STATES. THE FOUR QUESTION
MARKS WERE SALVADOR, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HAITI AND
BOLIVIA. HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO CONVINCE THREE OF THOSE
FOUR TO VOTE IN FAVOR AND WOULD BE MAKING A PARTICULAR
EFFORT WITH ALL OF THEM. RABASA
SAID HE ALREADY HAD REQUESTED HIS AMBASSADORS IN THOSE
COUNTRIES IN THE AFFIRMATIVE COLUMN TO RECONFIRM THAT THOSE
COUNTRIES WOULD VOTE AFFIRMATIVELY AT SAN JOSE. HE WOULD
THEN BE PRESSURING THE FOUR WHOSE VOTE IS STILL IN QUESTION
AND WOULD NOT APPROACH THE FOUR WHO WILL CERTAINLY VOTE
AGAINST. HE ASSURED ME THAT HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WHEN HE
COMPLETES HIS SURVEY WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK OR TEN DAYS.

5. RABAS ALSO SAID THAT THERE WAS STILL THE OPTION TO
HAVE THE ORGAN OF CONSULTATION AT SAN JOSE LEAVE TO THE
PERMANENT COUNSEL
THE DECISION OF CLEANING UP THE CUBAN
ISSUE. LUERS SAID HE TOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THE
LATINS WERE ABLE TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE AT SAN JOSE AND DELAY
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NO FURTHER. RABASA QUICKLY AGREED THAT THAT WAS HIS
PREFERENCE AS WELL. RABASA ALSO INDICATED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN
IN TOUCH WITH FACTO BUT WOULD DO SO AFTER COMPLETING THE
SURVEY.
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